EXCISE

Department of State TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3495

E.O. 12065: RDS-4 5/3/99 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJECT: (U) REPORTED DISAPPEARANCES

(C) SUMMARY. TWO DISAPPEARANCES WERE REPORTED TO THE EMBASSY YESTERDAY, ONE DATING FROM APRIL 11 AND THE OTHER FROM APRIL 30. THE APRIL 11 CASE, THAT OF JULIO CESAR ABRUZZESE, AT PRESENT APPEARS A CASE OF ORDINARY "POLICE CRIME" WITH UNCLEAR MOTIVES. THE MORE RECENT CASE, THAT OF THELMA DOROTY JARA DE CABEZAS, A PROMINENT HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE, APPEARS TO BE TYPICALLY A POLITICAL ABDUCTION. BOTH CASES HAVE BEEN PRESENTED ON AN URGENT BASIS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, TO THE OFFICE OF THE ARMY COMMANDER, AND TO ELEMENTS OF ARMY AND AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE AND TO NAVY CONTACTS. NO RESPONSE HAS BEEN RECEIVED AS YET FROM MEMBER OF GOA. END SUMMARY.

1. DISAPPEARANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER - THELMA DOROTY JARA DE CABEZAS --

1. (U) MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION - FAMILIARES DE DESAPARACIDOS Y DETENIDOS (FDD) INFORMED EMBOFF ON MAY 2 OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THELMA DOROTY JARA DE CABEZAS (CASE NO. 1035/79/5). ACCORDING TO THE FDD SOURCES, MRS. CABEZAS WAS LAST SEEN THE EVENING OF APRIL 30TH VISITING HER HUSBAND,
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A LUNG CANCER PATIENT, AT THE SPANISH HOSPITAL IN DOWNTOWN

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 7/20/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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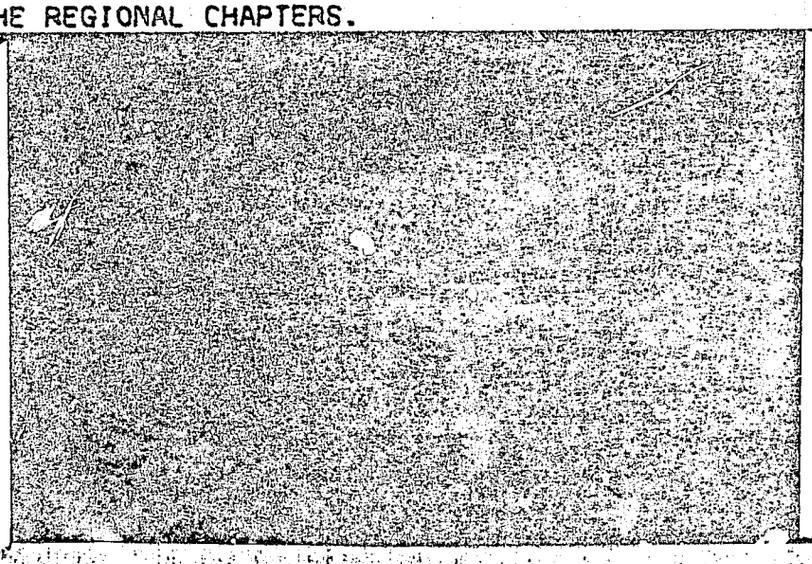
BUENOS AIRES. MRS. CABEZAS LEFT THE HOSPITAL AT 8 PM TO RETURN TO THE HOME OF FRIENDS NEAR THE HOSPITAL WITH WHOM SHE WAS STAYING. SHE HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE.

2. (U) THE FOLLOWING DAY, MAY 1, TWO MEN DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES WHO IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS FEDERAL POLICEMEN CALLED AT THE APARTMENT WHERE MRS. CABEZAS WAS STAYING TEMPORARILY AND INQUIRED IF SHE HAD BEEN LIVING THERE. HER FRIENDS, GREATLY FRIGHTENED, REPORTEDLY DENIED TO THE POLICE OFFICERS THAT MRS. CABEZAS HAD RESIDED IN THEIR APARTMENT. ONE OF THE POLICE OFFICERS STATED THAT THEY WERE SEARCHING FOR HER AS SHE WAS A "MONTONERA".

3. (U) MRS. CABEZAS IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION OF THE FDD. IN THIS CAPACITY SHE REPRESENTED THE FDD AT THE RECENT LATIN AMERICAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE IN PUEBLA, MEXICO. MRS. CABEZAS WAS ALSO THE FDD'S CHAPTER COORDINATOR RESPONSIBLE FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PARENT ORGANIZATION AND THE FDD GROUPS ORGANIZED IN A NUMBER OF CITIES IN THE INTERIOR.

4. (C) THE FDD SOURCE STATED THAT MRS. CABEZAS' ABDUCTION, FOLLOWING RECENT BOMBINGS AGAINST THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF THE BUENOS AIRES AND ROSARIO FDD CHAPTERS, HAS RAISED FEARS WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION. FDD MEMBERS ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED BECAUSE MRS. CABEZAS HAD INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE NOT ONLY OF THE OPERATION OF THE FDD NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BUT OF ALL THE REGIONAL CHAPTERS.



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II. DISAPPEARANCE OF JULIO CESAR ABRUZZESE (CASE NO.

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1017/79/5) --

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6. (C) THE WIFE AND SISTER OF JULIO CESAR ABRUZZESE REPORTED TO EMBOFF MAY 2 THAT THEIR RELATIVE WAS ABDUCTED ON APRIL 11 AT 3:30 AM BY FOUR ARMED MEN WHO IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS POLICE OFFICERS. THERE HAS BEEN NO INFORMATION REGARDING MR. ABRUZZESE'S WHEREABOUTS SINCE HIS INTERROGATION. HABEAS CORPURS PETITIONS FILED WITH AUTHORITIES IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL AND IN THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES HAVE BEEN NEGATIVE.

7. CHARGE REQUESTED INFORMATION ON REPORTED DISAPPEARANCES FROM FONOFF ON EVENING OF MAY 2 AND FROM GENERAL VIOLA'S OFFICE MAY 3. EMBOFFS HAVE MADE PARALLEL INQUIRIES TO ARMY INTELLIGENCE, AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE, NAVY CONTACTS AND TO FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE. NO RESPONSES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED YET.

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